

HUNTING SEASON OPENS IN WESTERN IOWA



The Western Iowa Tourism Region is inviting attendees at the Iowa Tourism Conference to join them for a unique hunt on the evening of

Sunday, October 20. The hunt will lead participants on a quest to locate several large prairie dog statues that are located throughout downtown Sioux City. After teams have bagged their limit, they'll revel in their success at the newly opened Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Please RSVP to Dee Polak, Downtown Partners Sioux City at 712-252-0014.

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK



The Silent Auction makes its seventh showing at the Iowa Tourism Conference, tempting people with more than 100 items. Here are a few examples of what you can look forward to:

Alpha's on the River and the Kingsley Inn, Fort Madison – Dinner for two at Alphas and elegant overnight lodging at the Kingsley Inn, with breakfast for two in the morning room. Value: \$130

The Inn At Okoboji – Overnight stay in the Admiral Suite: 1000 sq. ft. suite with hot tub, king bed, fireplace, private patio and great view of West Lake Okoboji. Value: \$395

Des Moines – Two tickets to the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines to see "Contact" January 14-19. One overnight at the Suites of 800 Locust in a fireplace king suite. Value: \$220

IOWA TOURISM CONFERENCE IS THIS MONTH

The Iowa Tourism Conference rolls around in less than a month. If you haven't already, please register to join your colleagues at this annual event, scheduled for October 21-23 in Sioux City.

Highlights of this year's conference include the release of the most recent county and statewide tourism statistics, a presentation by Governor Tom Vilsack, and a joint evening event with attendees of the Nebraska Tourism Conference. Don't miss this opportunity to spend three days learning, networking and having fun.

Registration information is available in the Travel Industry section at www.traveliowa.com. You can also request that it be mailed to you by calling 888-472-6035. ■



TTRA VISITS IOWA, HONORS LUANN REINDERS

Congratulations to Iowa Tourism Office Research and Welcome Center Manager LuAnn Reinders. LuAnn was honored with the President's Award during the CenStates Travel and Tourism Research Association's annual conference, held recently in Des Moines. LuAnn accepted the honor from CenStates TTRA president Denise Miller for all the work LuAnn has done during her involvement with the organization.

More than 115 people from around the Midwest converged on the Savery Hotel for two days of educational sessions and networking opportunities. This is the first time Iowa has hosted this regional conference in more than 10 years. ■



VISION IOWA INVESTS IN SIX PROJECTS

In September, the Vision Iowa board approved grants that will aid six projects, voting to dole out more than \$2.5 million from its Community Attraction and Tourism program (CAT). A component of Vision Iowa, CAT assists smaller projects.

CAT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Blairstown Area Community Center, Blairstown

(City population: 682) –

Grant amount: \$350,000;

Total project cost: \$1,257,377;

Amount requested: \$490,000

The grant is contingent upon raising an additional \$140,000 locally in the next six months.

Funding supports: After demolishing several old buildings, new public buildings will be constructed at the same sites. A new community center will house a library, a geology center, a recreational facility, and an elderly meals/elderly entertainment/city hall area. The recreation center will include a multi-purpose room that will accommodate many activities previously held at the school that has since closed.

Carroll Depot and Courtyard Development, Carroll

(City population: 10,106) –

Grant amount: \$250,000;

Total project cost: \$946,940;

Amount requested: \$250,000

This grant is contingent upon completing all phases of the project.

Funding supports: The city of Carroll and the Carroll Depot Center Ltd. have launched a nearly \$1 million plan to restore the interior of the Chicago Northwestern Depot Campus and develop a courtyard adjacent to the complex. Once renovated, the Railway Express Agency building and Depot Baggage building will be used as community meeting facilities and will include historic and cultural displays. The Depot Courtyard and plaza will be developed around the depot, similar to park settings that were popular during the 1940s and 1950s.

Twin Ponds Nature Center, Chickasaw County

(New Hampton)

(County population: 13,095) –

Grant amount: \$77,393;

Total project cost: \$663,393;

Amount requested: \$77,393

Funding supports: This project includes the construction of a nature center, information area, conservation offices, and a maintenance shop. The building will include meeting space and displays and will be available for meetings, conservation classes, and other events. The facility will also act as the headquarters for the Chickasaw County Conservation Board.

Englert Civic Theater, Iowa City

(City population: 62,220) –

Grant amount: \$800,000;

Total project cost: \$4,308,510;

Amount requested: \$1,540,420

This grant will be dispersed over two years and is contingent upon raising an additional \$1,068,682 by January 15, 2003.

Funding supports: In three stages, local leaders plan to restore the Englert Theater. State funds are requested to assist the completion of stage II, which includes installing elevators to make the theater compliant with ADA standards, renovating the second and third floors to accommodate Arts Iowa City and the Iowa City Community Theater Incubator. Stage II also calls for the restoration of the auditorium in accordance with the original 1926 blueprints, and bringing the stage area up to modern standards by installing new rigging, lighting and sound systems.

Pearl of the Mississippi, Muscatine

(City population: 22,697) –

Grant amount: \$1 million;

Total project cost: \$9,600,860;

Amount requested: \$3,118,900

This award will be dispersed over two years and is contingent upon completing local fundraising efforts in the next six months.

Funding supports: This project is intended to enhance three riverfront parks and downtown Muscatine. Project components include: an aquatic center, landscaping, community shelter, tennis courts, marina improvements, a visitor center, a skate park, trail extension, playground development, community art, boat launch relocation, lagoon improvements, and lighting and streetscape improvements.

Scott County Family YMCA,

Scott County (Bettendorf)

(County population: 158,668) -

Grant amount: \$200,000;

Total project cost: \$2,100,000;

Amount requested: \$200,000

Funding supports: CAT funds are requested for the construction of a new YMCA facility in Bettendorf, which will include a new indoor aquatic center. Other components of the project are a new multi-purpose gymnasium, fitness center, climbing wall, aerobic training area, racquetball courts and other meeting/service rooms.

At the meeting, the board also voted to issue notices of intent to consider and establish negotiating teams to determine awards for the following projects: Center Theatre Expansion, Grundy Center; Mt. Pleasant Library/Community Center, Mt. Pleasant and North Liberty Community Center Phase II, North Liberty.

The board meets again October 9 in Council Bluffs. To learn more about the program, contact Nichole Warren at 515-242-4827 or nichole.warren@ided.state.ia.us or go on-line to www.visioniowa.org. ■

VISION
IOWA

IOWA REPRESENTED AT TRAVEL WRITER CONFERENCE

Iowa Tourism Office Public Relations Manager Shawna Lode recently attended the Midwest Travel Writers Association's fall conference in California. This annual event gives public relations professionals from various Midwestern tourism organizations a chance to meet one-on-one with freelance travel writers and editors from the central states. Leads from the conference are available by contacting Shawna at 888-472-6035 or shawna.lode@ided.state.ia.us. ■



NOVEMBER 1 IS ADVERTISING DEADLINE

November 1 is the last day to reserve space in the Iowa Tourism Office's 2003 cooperative advertising program. A myriad of advertising opportunities are available in a variety of price ranges. Learn more about the program by visiting the Travel Industry section at traveliowa.com or contact Kit Curran at Associations, Inc., 866-585-9140 or kcurran@inaneews.com. ■



Now available at:
www.iowasmartidea.com/tourism/artwork/



INDUSTRY ASKED TO HELP PROMOTE IOWA

The Iowa Tourism Office invites our industry partners to join us in promoting the state's Web site, www.traveliowa.com. You now have the opportunity to include "Iowa tourism art" on your advertising and/or printed pieces.

Two different but similar images are available in black and white and color in a variety of formats at <http://www.iowasmartidea.com/tourism/artwork/>. We hope you will take the opportunity to include this artwork in your own projects and help us get the word out about Iowa. ■



CLARINDA EVENT EARNS NATIONAL ATTENTION

The American Bus Association recently recognized Clarinda's Glenn Miller Festival as one of the nation's top 100 festivals for motorcoach travelers in 2003. The diverse list includes festivals, exhibitions, fairs, sports events and more that take place in the United States and Canada. State tourism offices and local convention and visitor bureaus submit the nominations that are narrowed to 100 by a panel of ABA-appointed judges. ■





CLICK TO LEARN ABOUT COLORS

Again this year, the Iowa Tourism Office has teamed up with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to offer fall foliage updates electronically. Based on reports from the DNR's regional foresters, information about fall colors around the state are posted at www.traveliowa.com each week until mid-November. ■



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